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22 August 1964

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

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CONTENTS

25X1

- 3. Burundi: Confrontation between traditional ruler and his ministers has domestic and foreign implications. (Page 5)
- 4. Yemen: President Sallal and Vice President Amri may be replaced by more popular members of regime. (Page 6)

25X1

25X1

Approved For Release 2003/01/29 : CIA-RDP79T00975A007800410001-0

Next 5 Page(s) In Document Exempt

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Burundi: A confrontation between the traditional ruler and his principal ministers has developed, with implications for both domestic and foreign affairs.

Leading members of the Burundi cabinet, who reportedly favor a republic, are said to be plotting to overthrow the Mwami, a moderate who has been friendly to Western representatives. As of 19 August, these officials were preventing him from receiving anyone in audience.

The same Burundi Government leaders who are in conflict with the Mwami have been deeply involved in the operations of Tutsi fellow tribesmen against the Congolese and Rwandan regimes, and fear that these governments may eventually attack Burundi in reprisal. Burundi has charged that Rwandan forces violated the frontier four times since 10 August, and that the US and Belgium have encouraged Rwanda by supplying it with arms.

At the same time, the US Embassy states that Chinese Communist pressure for expanded relations has reached a high pitch. It has several unconfirmed reports that the Chinese Communist ambassador is pressing for acceptance of a military attaché and has offered military assistance.

The embassy understands that the Mwami is considering replacing the prime minister and the foreign and interior ministers. The embassy believes that unless the Mwami asserts his authority, the frenetic mood of the government might lead it to accept a Chinese Communist offer.

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Yemen: President Sallal and his right-hand man, Vice President Amri, reportedly will be sacked soon and replaced by two more popular members of the regime.

Prime Minister Hamud al-Jaifi is to be the new president and his present post will be taken by Ahmad Numan, head of the tribal council.

Although Egypt probably acquiesces in the shake-up, both men are less identified with the Egyptians than their predecessors and would be less amenable to Egyptian influence. They have tribal and religious connections, however, which could bolster the government's position against the royalists.

Rumors of a Yemeni military coup against the incompetent Sallal have been current for some days. Sallal is now in West Germany for treatment of chronic heart and nervous trouble. He recently has carried little weight in the government and has been absent for long periods of time.

No one has been reported in line for the vice presidency.

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Next 4 Page(s) In Document Exempt

Approved For Release 2003/01/29 : CIA-RDP79T00975A007800410001-0

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